

Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Program Operating Plan

Program or Division Name	Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Bureau	Office of Health Information and Analysis (OHIA)
Associateship	Deputy Commissioner for Administration
Program Purpose	<p>The purpose of the BRFSS is to collect uniform, state-based data on preventive health practices and risk behaviors that are linked to chronic diseases, injuries, and preventable infectious diseases. BRFSS telephone surveys provide data that public and private, federal, state, and local health authorities can use to identify major health risks, design interventions, set goals, and measure progress toward those goals.</p>
Major Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversee the collection and processing of data for the only statewide system available to track important behavioral risk factors, health practices, and prevalence rates associated with many of the leading chronic diseases that affect the health of Texans.• Produce and distribute reports, peer-reviewed articles, and data tabulations in support of public health surveillance, research, planning, policy development, and evaluation.• Respond to requests for data and technical assistance made by TDH programs, local health departments, and other organizations.• Collaborate with TDH programs, local health departments, and other organizations to identify emerging health issues and develop special surveys and survey questions to address those issues.• Monitor progress of the Texas population on Healthy People objectives and other indicators of health outcomes and status.
Population Served	State of Texas
Contact Information	<p>Jimmy Blanton, MPA Epidemiologist Phone 512.458.7111 x6593; Fax 512.458.7429 Jimmy.Blanton@tdh.state.tx.us Program Website: http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/chronic/default.htm Location: Moreton Building, Room 660 Mailing Address: 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756</p>

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Program Objectives	
Fiscal Year 2003 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversee the collection and processing of data on adult behavioral risk factors gathered from interviews with approximately 6,000 Texas residents through a survey process that strictly adheres to CDC methods and standards for quality assurance.• Improve the quantity and quality of BRFSS related information available online through the publication of an annual data summary and at least four Texas Risk Factor Reports.• Respond to all requests for BRFSS data or technical assistance in a timely manner.• Increase analytical capabilities, particularly in the field of small area or regional analysis.
Services Provided/ Activities	Health Care Safety Net Services
	N/A
	Essential Public Health Services (EPHS)
	EPHS 1. Monitor the health status of individuals in the community to identify community problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversee the collection and processing of data on behavioral risk factors, health practices, and chronic disease prevalence rates.• Prepare reports and analyses that monitor the progress of the Texas population on Healthy People objectives and other indicators of health outcomes and status.
	EPHS 3. Inform, educate, and empower the community with respect to health issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to requests for information and technical assistance made by TDH programs, local health departments, and other organizations.
	EPHS 9. Research new insights and innovative solutions to community health problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop peer-reviewed publications and presentations related to adult behavioral risk factors.• Collaborate with TDH programs, local health departments, and other organizations to identify emerging health issues and develop special surveys and survey questions to address those issues.
	EPHS 10. Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services in a community: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide data for the evaluation of public health interventions and public information campaigns (e.g., tobacco control,

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breast and cervical cancer control, HIV prevention, Folic Acid Campaign, health status indicators for the Preventive Health Services Block Grant).

	Administrative Activities
	N/A
Program Evaluation	Performance Measures
Performance Measures: State	N/A
Performance Measures: Federal	CDC
Mandate/authority	N/A
Origins of program (if no mandate)	In 1984, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to collect uniform, state-based data on preventive health practices and risk behaviors that are linked to chronic diseases, injuries, and preventable infectious diseases. BRFSS, the largest ongoing telephone survey in the world, is now used in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and three territories. Texas has participated since 1987. The Texas BRFSS is funded in part through a CDC grant and operates under a federal-state cooperative agreement.
Program Rules	N/A
Advisory Committee or Regulatory Board	N/A